

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

BIOMED REALTY, L.P.,

Plaintiff,

v.

700 DEXTER, LLC,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: 2:15-cv-00930-JCC

**DEFENDANT 700 DEXTER, LLC'S
MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT**

**NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:
JANUARY 29, 2016**

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Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 56, Defendant 700 Dexter, LLC (“Dexter”) respectfully moves for summary judgment against Plaintiff BioMed Realty, L.P. (“BioMed”). In support thereof, Dexter provides the following memorandum.

I. INTRODUCTION

The issues in this case are straightforward: BioMed insists that it will not close on its Purchase and Sale Agreement (“PSA”) with Dexter for real property located at 700 Dexter Avenue North in Seattle (the “Property”) unless and until a certain condition precedent is performed, but Washington Builders LLC (“Washington Builders”), an independent third party over which neither Dexter nor BioMed has any control, refuses to agree to any terms that would allow such performance.

Included in the PSA was a representation and warranty under Section 9.4 that at the time of execution of the Agreement, Dexter was not aware of and had not received written notice of any pending or threatened claims affecting the Property. It is undisputed that, at the time the PSA was executed, this representation was true. However, more than two years after the execution of the Agreement, Washington Builders LLC, a third party over which neither Dexter nor BioMed has any control, threatened claims that it incurred costs related to contamination that migrated from the Property, contrary to Section 9.4 of the Agreement. In order to avoid having to terminate the PSA, Dexter concurrently engaged in negotiations with Washington Builders and BioMed to resolve the issue.

BioMed’s clear and consistent message over the course of fifteen months of negotiation was that it would not waive Section 9.4 for anything less than a release by Washington Builders *and* its parent company, Vulcan, Inc., an entity controlled by investor and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. This position was never open to negotiation, despite the fact that Vulcan never once threatened suit. In fact, Kevin M. Simonsen, Senior Vice President of Real Estate Legal for BioMed, who participated in the negotiation of the PSA, confirmed in no uncertain terms that a release of Washington Builders alone “would not have been acceptable” to BioMed **“at any**

1 time.” Declaration of Laurin D. Quiat in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment (“Quiat
2 Decl.”), Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 126:11-16 (emphasis added).

3 Likewise, Washington Builders was intransigent in its rejection of a Vulcan release—
4 such a release would never be part of the negotiations from Washington Builders’ perspective.
5 Jim Broadlick, the Director of Design and Construction for Vulcan Real Estate and project
6 manager for Washington Builders, reiterated in deposition that a Vulcan release “could never be
7 executed.” Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 69:9-17 (emphasis added). Nor was
8 Washington Builders interested in settling its claims for a dollar amount. Washington Builders
9 never communicated or even assessed the dollar amount necessary to make it whole. Indeed,
10 negotiations with Washington Builders ended after Washington Builders took all releases off the
11 table in May 2015. Thus, despite over a year of effort, including dozens of emails, calls,
12 meetings, and negotiated versions of Agreement Amendments and Alternative Dispute
13 Resolution Agreements, Washington Builders made it clear that neither Washington Builders nor
14 Vulcan would agree to release BioMed or the Property from any claims, and Dexter has no
15 reasonable expectation of securing any such release in the future.

16 The result was an impenetrable deadlock. Frozen in a stalemate between BioMed and
17 Washington Builders, Dexter was incapable of fulfilling the condition precedent. It had no
18 choice but to terminate the contract in lieu of keeping the Property in a perpetual stasis, locked in
19 a contract that could never be performed. BioMed responded not by waiving the condition
20 precedent, but by filing suit against Dexter for specific performance or, alternatively, damages.
21 But when a condition precedent cannot be satisfied despite the good faith efforts of the parties—
22 as the undisputed material facts amply demonstrate is the case here—it is fundamental to
23 contract law that no liability attaches. There is no default of either party to the contract, and the
24 contracting parties are relieved of their duties and obligations under their contract.

25 Whatever other issues or allegations may exist between BioMed and Dexter in regards to
26 the PSA, the undisputed material facts in this case make two things abundantly clear: BioMed
27 will not close without a release from both Washington Builders *and* Vulcan, and after over a year

1 of negotiation, Washington Builders and Vulcan would never execute any such release. As long
 2 as BioMed refuses to waive Section 9.4 of the Agreement, a closing on the Property cannot
 3 happen. In short, BioMed's claims have no basis in fact or law.

4 Thus, for all of these reasons, the Court should grant Dexter's Motion for Summary
 5 Judgment and dismiss BioMed's claims for specific performance and damages.

6 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

7 **A. Dexter and BioMed Enter Into the Purchase and Sale Agreement.**

8 The Property subject to this action is situated in South Lake Union, one of Seattle's most
 9 desirable and fastest-growing commercial and residential areas. However, the cost of admission
 10 to developers in the area is often environmental remediation of contamination leftover from the
 11 area's industrial past, and the 700 Dexter Property is no exception. The Property was the former
 12 location of an industrial dry-cleaning operation with significant soil and groundwater
 13 contamination. Nonetheless, BioMed agreed to purchase the Property for \$18 million from
 14 Dexter, and both parties executed the PSA on October 26, 2011. Quiat Decl., Ex. C. Dexter,
 15 BioMed, and the entity that sold the Property to Dexter, American Linen Service, subsequently
 16 executed a Memorandum of Purchase Agreements and recorded the same in the Recorder's
 17 Office of King County, Washington on February 1, 2012, which created a public record notice of
 18 BioMed's claim of an ownership interest in the Property.¹ Quiat Decl., Ex. D; *Id.*, Ex. A
 19 (Simonsen Depo.) at 50:11-17; 51:15-20.

20 **1. The Representation and Warranty By Dexter That There Were No** 21 **Pending or Threatened Claims Affecting the Property Was a** 22 **Condition Precedent to Closing.**

23 The PSA contained a number of provisions to deal with the environmental remediation of
 24 the Property and to allocate liability for contamination among Dexter and BioMed. Critical to

25 ¹ Dexter entered into an agreement to purchase the Property from American Linen Supply Company ("ALS") on
 26 January 25, 2010 with the intention of cleaning the contamination and redeveloping the Property to bring new
 27 investment, jobs, residents, and commerce to the area. After contracting to purchase the Property, Dexter managed
 certain remediation activities on behalf of ALS in regard to contamination at and migrating from the Property.
 On April 30, 2015, Dexter completed the purchase of the Property from ALS and is now record title owner of the
 Property.

the agreement of the parties were the representations and warranties included in the PSA, which were covered in Articles 8 and 9. For instance, Section 8.1(d) generally requires that “[a]ll of Seller’s representations and warranties set forth in this Agreement shall be true and correct in all material respects on the Closing Date as though made at the time of the Closing.” Quiat Decl., Ex. C at BR11063. Article 9 of the Agreement, entitled Representations and Warranties of Seller, more exactly details the representations and warranties deemed to be “material” by the Parties. *Id.* at BR11070. Section 9.4, entitled “Litigation and Condemnation,” provides, in relevant part, that:

Seller has not received written notice of, and, to the best of Seller’s knowledge and belief, there are no: (a) pending or threatened claims, actions, suits, arbitrations, proceedings (including Condemnation Proceedings) or investigations by or before any court or arbitration body, any governmental, administrative or regulatory authority, or any other body, against or affecting the Property or the transactions contemplated by this Agreement

Id. at BR11070. Importantly, Section 9.15 explicitly states that “[t]he continued accuracy in all material respects of the aforesaid representations and warranties [including Section 9.4] is a condition precedent to Buyer’s obligation to close.” *Id.* at BR11072 (emphasis added); Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 48:6-10, 48:13-23, 71:10-13. Section 9.15 provides the remedy agreed to by the parties should any of the representations or warranties under Article 9 be inaccurate. It states that:

if any of said representations and warranties are not correct in all material respects at the time the same is made or as of Closing, and Seller had no knowledge of such inaccuracy when the representation or warranty was made (or when deemed remade at Closing), or if such warranty or representation becomes inaccurate on or prior to closing other than by reason of Seller’s default hereunder, Buyer may, upon being notified in writing by Seller of such occurrence on or prior to Closing, either: (a) terminate this Agreement and Escrow pursuant to the provisions of Section 8.5(a) hereof; or (b) waive such matter and proceed to closing.

Quiat Decl., Ex. C at BR11072-11073. Thus, if Section 9.4 were to be rendered inaccurate after the PSA was executed, but before closing, for any other reason than default by Dexter, under the

1 terms of the PSA, BioMed had two remedies available to it: waiver of Section 9.4 or termination
2 of the PSA.

3 **B. The Representations and Warranties Under Section 9.4 Were Rendered**
4 **Inaccurate After the Execution of the PSA By Threatened Litigation From a**
5 **Third-Party.**

6 At the time the parties executed the PSA, Dexter was not aware of and had not received
7 written notice of any pending or threatened claims affecting the Property, consistent with the
8 representations and warranties enumerated in Section 9.4 of the Agreement. Quiat Decl., Ex. A
9 (Simonsen Depo.) at 47:18-48:3, 124:7-11. On or about March 2014, over two years after the
10 execution of the PSA, Washington Builders, a third party unaffiliated with either Dexter or
11 BioMed, asserted legal claims in relation to the Property. Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.)
12 at 28:17-29:1. Washington Builders is a single purpose LLC, managed by Vulcan, Inc., which
13 owns and develops a single piece of property located at 601 Westlake Avenue, otherwise known
14 as Block 43, near the Property. *Id.* at 12:10-12; 17:19-22; 20:13-22; *see also* Quiat Decl., Ex. E
15 at Dexter215. Washington Builder's sole development on Block 43 has been the construction of
16 the Allen Institute for Brain Science. Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 15:17-16:8.
17 Although Washington Builders knew of environmental problems on Block 43 since 2012 (*id.* at
18 19:21-20:3, 27:4-10), it wasn't aware that a plume had potentially emanated from the 700 Dexter
19 Property to Block 43 until February 11, 2014 (*id.* at 12:10-12; 17:19-22; 20:13-22).

20 In the midst of its own construction, Washington Builders claimed no later than March
21 2014 that it encountered contamination migrating from the 700 Dexter Property and was
22 incurring additional costs for its clean-up. Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 33:2-4, 33:6-
23 14. By April 28, 2014, Washington Builders' claim included damages for remediation of the
24 property, diminished property values, increased construction costs and lost profits. Quiat Decl.,
25 *Id.* at 46:13-47:5; *id.*, Ex. F at Dexter191. Consequently, over the course of the following year,
26 counsel for Washington Builders repeatedly threatened litigation based on these claims, with the
27 intent to file a lawsuit if no resolution could be achieved. Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.)

at 28:17-29:1, 42:3-10; *id.*, Ex. G at Dexter162; *id.*, Ex. H at Dexter623; *id.*, Ex. I at Dexter365; *id.*, Ex. J at Dexter485; *id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 66:21-67:5.

When it learned of Washington Builders' claim, Dexter brought it to BioMed's attention, making BioMed aware of the nature of the litigation threat and its significance to Section 9.4. Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 62:7-10, 72:18-21; *id.*, Ex. K at BR18188. BioMed agreed that the Washington Builders claim and corresponding litigation threats rendered Section 9.4 of the PSA inaccurate at that time. *Id.*, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 71:3-9, 131:2-4, 132:8-18; *id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 28:17-29:1.

C. BioMed Refuses to Waive Section 9.4, and Instead Demands a Release From Washington Builders' Parent Company, Vulcan, Inc.

BioMed made clear from the beginning, in April 2014, that it would not waive Section 9.4 of the PSA. Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 55:20-56:7. Understanding that the Washington Builders' allegations were inconsistent with the representations and warranties enumerated in Section 9.4 of the already executed agreement, Dexter immediately entered into the first of seventeen standstill agreements with Washington Builders on April 4, 2014, committing each party to refrain from initiating legal action in exchange for the other party's promise of the same while the parties attempted to resolve their dispute. *Id.*, Ex. E.

BioMed was aware that Dexter was participating in standstill agreements with Washington Builders (Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 72:7-15; *id.* Ex. K at BR18188 and BR18217-18218) and demanded that Dexter acquire a release from Washington Builders' parent company and all subsidiaries. On May 1, 2014, Denis Sullivan, BioMed's senior vice-president of finance, sent an email to Eric Williams, one of Dexter's executives, that outlined a "framework intended to provide a path to advance the 700 Dexter Transaction," and confirming that BioMed "remain[ed] keenly interested in acquiring this site." *Id.*, Ex. L at BR18435.² In

² Although BioMed's letter makes a variety of allegations related to the performance of the PSA, BioMed never moved to terminate the contract based on any of these issues, and was, in fact, "very interested in buying this property." Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 69:4-8 (nothing in the letter rose to the level of requiring termination of the PSA at that time), 86:21-24 (no indication that BioMed would terminate the PSA based upon

that email, BioMed made clear that, as a condition of closing, “BioMed shall receive a full release from Vulcan, and this release shall come from Vulcan’s parent company, apply to all subsidiaries and affiliates, and cover any current and/or future claims . . . in a form acceptable to BioMed in its sole and absolute discretion.” *Id.* On that same day, BioMed also acknowledged by letter that the continued accuracy of Section 9.4 was a condition precedent to closing and informed Dexter that it did not consider the standstill agreements to be a satisfactory remedy of the representations and warranties enumerated in Section 9.4 of the Agreement. In that letter, BioMed repeated its demand for indemnification as a condition of closing. *Id.*, Ex. M at BR1161.

D. Dexter Unsuccessfully Negotiates Seventeen Standstill Agreements, Six Draft Alternative Dispute Resolution Agreements, and a Sixth Amendment to the PSA Over the Course of Fourteen Months to Achieve a Release That Would Satisfy BioMed.

From April 2014 through May 15, 2015, Dexter was earnestly negotiating for a release from Washington Builders. After its initial Standstill Agreement on April 4, 2014, Dexter negotiated another sixteen additional standstill agreements between April 10, 2014 and December 1, 2014.³ Quia Decl., Ex. N. Washington Builders was already aware of BioMed’s involvement with the 700 Dexter Property (*id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 39:24-40:1, 40:5, 102:18-103:1), and while these standstill agreements were in place, Dexter entered into negotiations with Washington Builders to have BioMed released from any putative claims related to the Property. *Id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 37:4-23; *id.*, Ex. O.

Initially, Dexter proposed a draft Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) agreement that outlined a mediation process and a release from Washington Builders “in consideration for any

alleged milestone date issue), 64:15-23 (no action to terminate based upon alleged failure to provide updates), 41:10-13 (no action to terminate by the end of the extended investigation period).

³ The Parties do not have fully executed copies of the twelfth, fifteenth, and sixteenth standstill agreements, but Mr. Broadlick confirmed in deposition that Dexter and Washington Builders agreed to the terms of those standstill agreements even though the signature pages could not be found. Quia Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 72:3-24 (Twelfth), 75:16-77:13 (Fifteenth and Sixteenth). The seventeenth standstill agreement was negotiated and drafted but may never have been signed because by that time, according to Mr. Broadlick, “BioMed was not willing to close the sale without a release so the need for a standstill agreement was no longer necessary.” *Id.* at 77:18-78:6.

1 payment . . . in satisfaction of Washington Builders’ Claim, including all Washington Builders
 2 Claims against any future purchaser of the 700 Dexter Property, whether currently known or
 3 unknown.” Quiat Decl., Ex. O at Dexter1135. But Washington Builders refused the release,
 4 deleting it entirely in its version of the ADR. *Compare id.*, Ex. O at Dexter1135, ¶2(B) *with id.*,
 5 Ex. F at Dexter192-193. On May 7, 2014, Dexter proposed new release language, which stated
 6 that “in consideration for the deposit” of an unstated amount dollar amount “of ‘Dexter/ALS
 7 Escrow Funds’ . . . and Dexter’s agreement to enter into this ADR Agreement to resolve claims
 8 asserted by Washington Builders, Washington Builders releases Washington Builders’ Claims
 9 against any future purchaser, lender, owner or investor in the 700 Dexter Property, whether
 10 currently known or unknown.” *Id.*, Ex. Q at Dexter1110, ¶3. Again, Washington Builders
 11 completely rejected this language and deleted it from the working ADR draft because it was “not
 12 willing to provide for a release of their claims as it pertains to future purchasers of the 700
 13 Dexter property.” *Id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 54:13-21; *id.*, Ex. R at Dexter1069.

14 Dexter persisted in negotiations, and on June 3, 2014, Washington Builders circulated a
 15 new draft ADR agreement, which conceded a release from Washington Builders. Under that
 16 version of the ADR, Washington Builders agreed to release its “claims against any future
 17 purchaser, lender, owner or investor in the 700 Dexter Property, whether known or unknown,”
 18 but only on condition that Dexter be excluded from the release. Quiat Decl., Ex. S at
 19 Dexter1039, ¶3. This newly proposed provision also included new, additional language
 20 requiring BioMed to release its potential claims against Washington Builders arising out of the
 21 700 Dexter Contamination. *Id.* However, BioMed rejected this proposed release because it did
 22 not also include a release from Washington Builders’ parent company, Vulcan, Inc. Quiat Decl.,
 23 Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 125:5-12.

24 While negotiations were ongoing with Washington Builders, Dexter concurrently
 25 attempted to negotiate with BioMed a Sixth Amendment to the PSA to provide sufficient
 26 assurances to BioMed so it would close on the Property, notwithstanding the Washington
 27

1 Builders claims.⁴ By July 9, 2014, Dexter had informed BioMed that “we do not expect that
 2 Vulcan will provide a release.” Quiat Decl., Ex. T at BR18466. Regardless, BioMed stuck to its
 3 position and proposed an August 2014 draft Sixth Amendment that required a Vulcan release as
 4 a condition of closing. *Id.*, Ex. U at BR18519, ¶7. BioMed again rejected release language in
 5 the August ADR draft exchanged between Dexter and Washington Builders because it lacked a
 6 release from Vulcan. *Id.*, Ex. V at Dexter611-612, ¶3; *id.*, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 126:6-16.

7 Accordingly, in August 2014, Dexter dutifully expressed to Washington Builders
 8 BioMed’s desire to expand the scope of the release in the ADR Agreement by including a release
 9 from Vulcan. Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 63:8-21. Indeed, by August 25, 2014,
 10 Dexter proposed specific language for an expanded release to include Vulcan. *Id.*, Ex. I at
 11 Dexter368; *see also id.*, Ex. W. Although Washington Builders was aware that BioMed was
 12 concerned about other entities or properties in the area that were owned by Vulcan, this new
 13 language never made its way into future ADR drafts. *Id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 65:19-66:5,
 14 70:8-17. According to Mr. Broadlick, a Vulcan release “could never be executed.” *Id.* at 69:9-
 15 17 (emphasis added).

16 In October 2014, Dexter voiced its concerns over the possibility and necessity of a
 17 Vulcan release, which BioMed rejected. Quiat Decl., Ex. X at BR18545-18546. As of
 18 November 2014, BioMed’s instructions to Dexter remained that any release from Washington
 19 Builders must also include a release from Vulcan. *Id.*, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 117:6-13,
 20 125:5-12. Indeed, despite the fact that “there were a number of times where [Dexter] said they
 21 didn’t feel they could get” a release from Vulcan (*id.* at 129:5-12, 94:14-22), at BioMed’s
 22 insistence, the broader Vulcan release remained in the December 11, 2014, January 14, 2015,
 23 and February 28, 2015 versions of the Sixth Amendment to the PSA (*id.*, Ex. Y at BR6778-6779,
 24 ¶13 and Ex. Z at Dexter8052-8053, ¶11), with the last of those drafts requiring Dexter to obtain
 25

26 ⁴ From December 8, 2011 to January 30, 2012 Dexter and BioMed agreed to five separate amendments to the PSA,
 27 dealing with issues such as extending the investigation period, removing underground storage tanks, or setting
 amended terms for acquiring an opinion letter from the Washington Department of Ecology, none of which are
 relevant for purposes of this motion.

1 releases from both Washington Builders *and* Vulcan as a condition of closing (*id.*, Ex. AA at
2 BR7949-950, ¶15).

3 **E. Washington Builders Asserts That It Will Never Execute a Vulcan Release**
4 **and Never Calculates or Communicates to Dexter the Full Extent of the**
5 **Damages It Claims.**

6 In fifteen months of negotiation, every draft ADR proposed by Dexter included some
7 form of release for BioMed (Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 89:20-90:5), and Dexter
8 had pushed Washington Builders to include a broad release from Vulcan. But this expanded
9 language was never included or used by Washington Builders in future draft ADR agreements.
10 *Id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 70:8-17. Eventually, on May 11, 2015, Washington Builders
11 removed the release language completely from its ADR proposal, scrapping any prospect of a
12 release for BioMed in connection with the Property. *Id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 91:5-10,
13 90:6-14; *id.*, Ex. BB. And, in fact, by May 2015, not only had Washington Builders made clear
14 to Dexter that a broad release from Vulcan could *never* be executed (*Id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.)
15 at 69:9-16), but the willingness of Washington Builders to issue a release on its own behalf was
16 also gone.

17 As an alternative resolution, Dexter sought to settle the Washington Builders claims.
18 However, Washington Builders made it impossible to settle its claims for a dollar amount.
19 Through every iteration of ADR agreement proposals, Washington Builders never
20 communicated a dollar amount to resolve its claims. Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at
21 70:18-71:17. Even though Washington Builders estimated actual costs incurred from the
22 damages related to its claims to be approximately \$2.2 million (*id.* at 100:11-19) and forecast a
23 cost to remediate at \$4 million (*id.* at 111:22-112:21; Quiat Decl., Ex. S at Dexter1039, ¶2), it
24 has never actually calculated its complete remediation cost for the Property. *Id.*, Ex. B at
25 111:13-15. Moreover, the \$4 million forecast was never intended by Washington Builders to be
26 the total cost of its claim, nor has Washington Builders ever calculated a dollar amount for
27 diminished property or the impact on its construction schedule. *Id.* at 113:9-19 (forecast),
130:22-131:8 (diminished value), 131:9-132:2 (construction schedule). In addition, according to

1 Mr. Broadlick, costs for remediation have yet to be assessed, given that remediation is ongoing,
2 and may not be finished for another five years. *Id.* at 115:2-20.

3 **F. BioMed's Refusal to Close Without a Release From Vulcan Results in a**
4 **Perpetual Stalemate That Prevents Closing.**

5 By May 20, 2015, BioMed's position was that the threat of litigation continued to exist
6 from Washington Builders that rendered Dexter's representations and warranties under Section
7 9.4 inaccurate. *Quiat Decl.*, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 130:12-17. Yet, the continued accuracy
8 of the representations and warranties under Section 9.4 of the PSA remained a condition
9 precedent to closing. However, by May 20, 2015, BioMed had not indicated to Dexter that it
10 would waive Section 9.4 of the PSA (*id.*, Ex. B (Simonsen Depo.) at 131:14-18) while at the
11 same time repeatedly insisting that a release from Vulcan would be required for closing (*id.*, Ex.
12 A (Simonsen Depo.) at 102:14-16, 111:25-112:4, 125:23-126:5, 126:11-16, 127:19-128:1).
13 Indeed, from the time BioMed became aware of the Washington Builders' threatened litigation
14 in April 2014 through May 20, 2015, it never indicated to 700 Dexter that it would accept a
15 release executed solely by Washington Builders. *Id.*, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 127:19-128:1.

16 But a release from Vulcan was never on the table, and it never would be. Despite months
17 of negotiation, Washington Builders and Dexter had reached what Mr. Broadlick called in his
18 deposition a "stalemate," and no resolution could be reached. *Quiat Decl.*, Ex. B (Broadlick
19 Depo.) at 94:10-13, 117:1-5. Even though, from Washington Builders' perspective, Dexter had
20 negotiated in good faith to execute an ADR agreement (*id.* at 59:13-19), Washington Builders
21 and Dexter never came to agree upon terms for an ADR agreement, nor did they execute a final
22 version. *Id.* at 37:14-23, 70:8-17. To this day, Washington Builders maintains its claims, which
23 have not been settled (or fully quantified). *Id.* at 99:14-20. By May 11, 2015, Washington
24 Builders had eliminated the release language entirely from the working ADR draft and had
25 communicated to Dexter that it could never provide a release from Vulcan. *Id.* at 69:9-16, 70:8-
26 17.

1 Thus, by May 20, 2015, Dexter was stuck between two intractable positions. Regardless
 2 of whether or when a closing deadline could be established, the situation created the
 3 impossibility of never being able to close the transaction with BioMed. On the one hand,
 4 BioMed would not close without the Vulcan release, and on the other hand, Washington Builders
 5 would never execute such a release.

6 Dexter was left with no choice but to inform BioMed it was terminating the PSA because
 7 (1) subsequent to the execution of the Agreement, Washington Builders LLC, a third party over
 8 which Dexter has no control, threatened claims in relation to the Property contrary to Section 9.4
 9 of the Agreement; (2) despite Dexter's consistent, diligent and good faith efforts to obtain a
 10 release of claims from Washington Builders, Dexter has been unable to obtain such a release and
 11 has no reasonable expectation that such a release is forthcoming; (3) BioMed has refused to
 12 waive Section 9.4 of the Agreement; and, therefore, (4) Dexter's performance has been excused
 13 by the failure of a condition precedent and/or has been rendered impossible. Quia Decl., Ex. CC
 14 at 1.

15 In response, on May 27, 2015, BioMed filed suit against Dexter in state court. Compl.
 16 (Dkt. #1). BioMed claims that the "real property which is the subject of the contract [PSA] is
 17 unique" and that it is "entitled to specific performance of the contract and an injunction requiring
 18 700 Dexter to perform under the contract and deliver the property." *Id.* at ¶3.1. BioMed claims
 19 that "[in] the alternative, 700 Dexter has breached the contract by repudiating it" and that
 20 "BioMed has been damaged as a proximate result in an amount to be proven at trial, but not less
 21 than many millions of dollars." *Id.* at ¶4.1. In its prayer for relief, BioMed seeks "an Order
 22 compelling 700 Dexter to deliver title to the real property in question per contract," or,
 23 "alternatively, for damages in an amount to be proven at trial." *Id.* at V. (a)-(b). On June 11,
 24 2015, Dexter removed the case to federal court (Dkt. #1), and on June 12, 2015, Dexter filed its
 25 counterclaims for a declaratory judgment against BioMed stating that the PSA is rightfully
 26 subject to termination, subject to the return of BioMed's earnest money, and for a decree
 27 quieting title to the disputed Property in favor of Dexter. Dkt. #10. Accordingly, on July 29,

2015, Dexter requested that BioMed's earnest money be returned to it, but on August 6, 2015, BioMed refused to accept the money and requested that it remain in escrow. Quiat Decl., Ex. FF. On August 18, 2015, Dexter filed a motion to strike BioMed's jury demand (Dkt. # 17), and the Court subsequently ordered that all legal issues associated with BioMed's breach of contract claim, as well as all legal and factual issues pertaining to BioMed's specific performance claim, are to be decided by the Court, and not a jury (Dkt. #27).

III. MEMORANDUM OF LAW

A. Legal Standard.

Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure governs summary judgment motions and provides that a court must grant summary judgment "if the movant shows that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). The moving party bears the initial burden of showing that no genuine issue of material fact exists. *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986). If the moving party meets this initial burden, then the party opposing the motion must set forth facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial. *Veritas Operating Corp. v. Microsoft Corp.*, No. C06-0703-JCC, 2008 WL 217727, at *4 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 24, 2008). "A 'material' fact is one that is relevant to an element of a claim or defense and whose existence might affect the outcome of the suit." *T.W. Elec. Serv., Inc. v. Pac. Elec. Contractors Ass'n*, 809 F.2d 626, 630 (9th Cir.1987). There is no genuine issue of fact for trial where the record, taken as a whole, could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the nonmoving party. *McFerrin v. Old Republic Title, Ltd.*, No. C08-5309BHS, 2009 WL 2045212, at *4 (W.D. Wash. July 9, 2009) (citing *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co.*, 475 U.S. at 586 (nonmoving party must present specific, significant probative evidence, not simply "some metaphysical doubt"); *see also* Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(e). If the nonmoving party fails to establish the existence of a genuine issue of material fact, "the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." *Washington Mut., Inc. v. United States*, No. C06-1550-JCC, 2008 WL 8422136, at *4 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 12, 2008) (citing *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 323-24 (1986)).

B. BioMed's Claims Must Be Dismissed Because Failure to Perform a Condition Precedent Is Not a Breach of Contract.

BioMed's claims must be dismissed because there can be no liability for breach of contract when a condition precedent, such as the continued accuracy of Section 9.4, is not fulfilled, despite the good faith efforts of the parties. There can be no breach as a matter of law because "[c]onditions precedent" are "those facts and events, occurring subsequently to the making of a valid contract, that must exist or occur before there is a right to immediate performance, before there is a breach of contract duty, before the usual judicial remedies are available." *Tacoma Northpark, LLC v. NW, LLC*, 123 Wash. App. 73, 79 (2004) (quoting *Ross v. Harding*, 64 Wash. 2d 231, 236 (1964)). Thus, "the nonoccurrence of a condition precedent prevents the promisor [Dexter] from acquiring a right (to require [BioMed] to purchase the property) or deprives it of one, but it does not subject the promisor [Dexter] to liability." *Tacoma Northpark, LLC*, 123 Wash. App. at 79. Accordingly, when a condition precedent is present, "the court should not set aside the limitation and enforce the promise in spite of the non-performance of the condition." *CHG Intern., Inc.*, 35 Wash. App. at 514.

To determine whether a contractual provision "suggests a conditional intent, not a promise," the court must determine the legal effect of the contract. *Tacoma Northpark, LLC*, 123 Wash. App. at 79. "The legal effect of a contract is a question of law that may properly be determined on summary judgment." *Engst v. OrthAlliance, Inc.*, No. C01-1469C, 2004 WL 7092226, at *3 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 1, 2004) (citing *Absher Constr. Co. v. Kent School Dist. No. 415*, 77 Wash.App. 137, 890 P.2d 1071, 1073 (1995) (holding that "interpretation of an unambiguous contract is a question of law")). Under Washington law, courts attempt to determine the parties' intent "by focusing on the objective manifestations of the agreement," making "the subjective intent of the parties . . . irrelevant if the court can determine the intent from the actual words used." *Doyle v. Nutrilawn U.S., Inc.*, No. C09-0942JLR, 2010 WL 1980280, at *2 (W.D. Wash. May 17, 2010) (citing *Hearst Commc'ns, Inc. v. Seattle Times Co.*, 154 Wash.2d 493, 115 P.3d 262, 267 (Wash. 2005)).

Here, the plain language of the PSA expressly makes performance of Section 9.4 a condition precedent. Section 9.15 explicitly states that “[t]he continued accuracy in all material respects of the aforesaid representations and warranties [including Section 9.4] is a condition precedent to Buyer’s obligation to close.” Quiat Decl., Ex. C at BR11072 (emphasis added). Thus, the PSA directly and unambiguously makes performance of Section 9.4 a condition precedent to the closing of the transaction for the Property, as opposed to a contractual promise, and the requirements of this condition precedent have not been met. Section 9.4 represents and warrants that there are no “pending or threatened claims, actions, suits . . . against or affecting the Property or the transactions contemplated by this Agreement.” *Id.* at BR11070. But as the facts amply demonstrate, Washington Builders has asserted claims related to the alleged migration of contamination from the Property, which it maintains to this day. Quiat Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 99:14-20. It cannot be reasonably disputed that the condition precedent under Sections 9.15 and 9.4 remain unfulfilled.

1. BioMed’s Refusal to Waive Section 9.4 Without a Release From Vulcan Ensures the Condition Precedent to Closing Can Never Be Fulfilled.

In fact, BioMed’s requirement of a Vulcan release as a condition to closing ensures that it can never be fulfilled. As documented by the evidence in this case, BioMed has remained steadfast in its demand that Dexter obtain a release from Vulcan before BioMed will close on the Property. After April 2014, when BioMed communicated to Dexter that it would not waive Section 9.4 of the PSA (Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 55:20-56:7), BioMed mandated a Vulcan release in an email and letter in May 2014 (*id.*, Ex. L at BR18435; Ex. M at BR1161) and in its rejection of a proposed release that did not include Vulcan in June (*id.*, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 125:5-12) and August 2014 (*id.* at 126:6-16). BioMed reiterated this requirement again in November 2014 (*id.* at 117:6-13) and insisted on the inclusion of a broader Vulcan release as a condition of closing in the August 15, 2014, December 11, 2014, January 14, 2015, and February 28, 2015, versions of the Sixth Amendment to the PSA. Quiat Decl., Exs. U

at BR18519, ¶7, Y at BR6778-6779, ¶13, Z at Dexter8052-8053, ¶11, and AA at BR7949-950, ¶15. By May 20, 2015, BioMed had not indicated to Dexter that it would waive Section 9.4 of the PSA (*id.*, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 131:14-18). From the time BioMed became aware of the Washington Builders’ threatened litigation through May 20, 2015 (a period of at least fourteen months), it never indicated to 700 Dexter that it would accept a release executed solely by Washington Builders. *Id.* at 127:19-128:1. To the contrary, Mr. Simonsen, BioMed’s 30(b)(6) representative, confirmed that a release of Washington Builders alone “would not have been acceptable” to BioMed “at any time.” *Id.* at 126:11-16 (emphasis added). This admission is critical because, as the evidence also makes crystal clear, Washington Builders was *never* going to execute a Vulcan release.

When it learned of Washington Builders’ claims, Dexter engaged in negotiations with both Washington Builders and BioMed to either cure the defect in Section 9.4 or obtain a release sufficient to satisfy BioMed enough to waive Section 9.4. Over the course of approximately fifteen months, this proved a herculean task because Washington Builders was not willing to provide what BioMed demanded for closing. Ultimately, Dexter’s task was impossible for at least two reasons.

First, Dexter was *never* going to obtain a Vulcan release from Washington Builders. The prospect of a Washington Builders release of BioMed was uncertain at best. Initially, Washington Builders rejected the idea outright on three separate occasions. Quiat Decl., Ex. F at Dexter192-193, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 54:13-21; *see also id.*, Ex. R at Dexter1069. In its June and August 2014 ADR drafts, Washington Builders finally agreed to some form of release for BioMed, but BioMed rejected this language because it did not include a Vulcan release. *Id.* Ex. S at Dexter1039, ¶3) and Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 125:5-12, 126:6-16. On May 15, 2015, Washington Builders sent its final ADR revisions to Dexter, which removed all release language entirely, eliminating the prospect of even a Washington Builders release, let alone a Vulcan release. *Id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 91:5-10, 90:6-14 and Ex. BB. Ultimately, a Vulcan release was never included or used in any draft ADR agreements (*id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at

70:8-17), and Washington Builders and Dexter never came to terms on an ADR agreement (*id.* at 37:14-23, 70:8-17). And, in fact, by May 2015, Washington Builders made clear that a broad Vulcan release “could *never* be executed.” *Id.* at 69:9-16.

Second, it is axiomatic that any settlement of Washington Builders’ claims required Washington Builders’ cooperation, but Washington Builders never communicated or even assessed the dollar amount necessary to make it whole. Quia Decl., Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 111:13-15, 113:9-19, 130:22-131:8, 131:9-132:2. In fact, to this day Washington Builders claims that the full extent of its damages is unknown. *Id.* at 115:2-20. Washington Builders presently maintains its claims, in contradiction to Section 9.4, which have not been settled. *Id.* at 99:14-20.

Given the undisputed material facts regarding Washington Builders’ intractable position, BioMed’s demand for a release of Vulcan and its subsidiaries cannot reasonably be viewed as a good faith attempt to resolve the representation and warranty under Section 9.4. A reasonable position that would have sufficiently addressed BioMed’s liability concerns would have been a release from the claims related to Block 43, which was limited to Washington Builders’ threats of future litigation. By repeatedly demanding a much broader release from Vulcan, BioMed ensured that the PSA would be locked in a stalemate. Even so, Dexter did everything it could, in good faith, to meet the condition precedent of Section 9.4 under the PSA.

2. Dexter’s Efforts to Satisfy the Condition Precedent Were Made in Good Faith.

Consequently, even though Dexter was unsuccessful in fulfilling the condition precedent of Section 9.4, it “need only establish that it made a good faith effort to satisfy the condition” to be discharged of its contractual duties under the PSA. *CHG Intern., Inc. v. Robin Lee, Inc.*, 35 Wash. App. 512, 514-515 (1983); *accord Tacoma Northpark, LLC*, 123 Wash. App. at 78-79. As the facts in this case demonstrate, there can be no reasonable allegations or evidence to suggest that Dexter did not meet this standard. Dexter’s good faith is evident from more than

1 merely an absence of evidence—there are ample facts of this case showing affirmative good faith
 2 efforts on Dexter’s part.

3 For example, there is no suggestion or evidence that, at the time the parties executed the
 4 PSA, Dexter was aware of and had received written notice of any pending or threatened claims
 5 affecting the Property, consistent with the representations and warranties enumerated in Section
 6 9.4 of the Agreement. Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 47:18-48:3, 124:7-11. This is
 7 consistent with the fact that Washington Builders only learned on February 11, 2014, of the
 8 claims it would assert against the Property—more than two years after the PSA was executed by
 9 Dexter. *Id.*, Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 12:10-12; 17:19-22; 20:13-22.

10 Moreover, there no evidence that Dexter negotiated with Washington Builders to obtain a
 11 release for BioMed in bad faith. For instance, there is no allegation or evidence that Dexter
 12 engaged in fraud or actively attempted to sabotage its own performance. In fact, all material
 13 facts are to the contrary. Over the course of approximately fifteen months, Dexter negotiated a
 14 total of seventeen standstill agreements (Quiat Decl., Exs. E and N) and seven draft alternative
 15 dispute resolution Agreements with Washington Builders (*id.*, Exs. F, Q, R, S, V, EE, BB), while
 16 at the same time negotiating six draft amendments to the PSA with BioMed (*id.*, Exs. U, DD, P,
 17 Y, Z, AA), all in a good faith effort to satisfy the condition precedent to closing the real property
 18 transaction. At BioMed’s insistence, Dexter pushed for a broad release of Vulcan, even after it
 19 advised BioMed that obtaining such a release may not be the best strategy and would be a
 20 difficult proposition in any case. *Id.*, Ex. X at BR18545-18546, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at
 21 129:5-12, 94:14-22), Ex. B (Broadlick Depo.) at 63:8-21, Ex. I at Dexter368, Ex. W.

22 Washington courts have determined the actions of a party to be made in good faith under
 23 similar circumstances and for much less effort than that exerted by Dexter, particularly when the
 24 condition precedent was prevented by an independent third party. *See, e.g., CHG Intern., Inc.*,
 25 35 Wash. App. at 515 (condition precedent for sale of real property was purchasing third party’s
 26 interest, but third party was unwilling to sell and would not have sold before closing even though
 27 the defendant continuously negotiated for purchase); *Salvo v. Thatcher*, 128 Wash. App. 579,

586 (financing was condition precedent to contract for the purchase of real property, and Salvo continued to pursue financing in good faith by making applications for loans, but was not approved by lenders, so was not in default); *Tacoma Northpark, LLC*, 123 Wash. App. at 78-81 (parties discharged of contractual obligations when condition precedent to sale of real property was final plat approval by city, but city did not approve the final plat and engineering firm hired to complete platting encountered financial difficulties preventing it from completing platting process). The same outcome is manifest here. Dexter made every effort to perform Section 9.4 of the PSA in good faith, but, due to circumstances entirely beyond its control, it cannot fulfill this condition precedent. As a matter of law, Dexter cannot be in default.

3. The Financial Assurances Provision Under Section 8.1(q) of the PSA Is Not an Alternative to Securing a Release Because It Is an Unenforceable Agreement to Agree.

During his deposition, Mr. Simonsen implied that Dexter could have employed Section 8.1(q) of the PSA, a financial assurances provision, to provide some financial mechanism to cover liability for the Washington Builders claim if no release from Vulcan could be achieved, therefor providing BioMed with the financial security it required to waive Section 9.4. This position is unavailing and does nothing to challenge the good faith efforts of Dexter. Section 8.1(q) is an agreement to agree, which is unenforceable under Washington law—a fact that Mr. Simonsen and BioMed’s transactional counsel, Kelly Spicher, have already conceded. Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 83:22-84:15, 85:8-13; *id.* Ex. M at BR1161.

Under Washington law, “[a]n agreement for an agreement, or, in other words, an agreement to do something which requires a further meeting of the minds of the parties and without which it would not be complete is unenforceable.” *Sandeman v. Sayres*, 50 Wash.2d 539, 542 (1957). This is particularly true in instances where parties to a contract agree to determine an amount as part of an essential term of the contract at a future date. The court may determine only a reasonable amount defined for an essential term when the parties have “definitely and finally agreed” on that amount. *Id.* at 543. When limits on essential terms are not fixed with “reasonable certainty,” the court cannot determine what a reasonable limit may

1 be. *Id.* at 541 & 543 (noting that if a term is so “indefinite that a court cannot decide just what it
 2 means, and fix exactly the legal liability of the parties,” there cannot be an enforceable
 3 agreement.).

4 Section 8.1 (q) states, in relevant part:

5 Financial Assurance for Off-Property Cleanup Obligations. **Buyer and Seller**
 6 **shall have agreed on the form of financial assurances** Seller shall provide to
 7 Buyer at Closing to cover . . . any third-party claims arising from Hazardous
 8 Materials on the Land Such financial assurances shall be **in an amount at**
 9 **least equal to the sum of [] the estimated costs of remediation** of the Land and
 10 Off-Property Contamination Buyer agrees that **access to funds in the**
 11 **Cleanup and Liability Fund . . . shall be considered a sufficient financial**
 12 **assurance provided the amount available to Buyer . . . is at least equal to the**
 13 **amount required under this section.**

11 Quiat Decl., Ex. C at BR11065 (emphasis added). As made clear by its own language, Section
 12 8.1(q) requires that Dexter and BioMed *agree to agree* on the form and the amount of financial
 13 assurance, which has an undefined minimum amount equal to the “estimated costs of
 14 remediation” based on a number of potential, but not requisite, factors.

15 Under these circumstances, the Washington Supreme Court has refused to imply “a duty
 16 to continue negotiations” and has “decline[d] to create and impose a duty to go forward in the
 17 absence of an enforceable contract.” *Keystone Land & Development Co. v. Xerox Corp.*, 152
 18 Wash.2d 171, 180 (2004). Moreover, it is of no consequence if one or the other party believes
 19 that the undefined amount may eventually be determined. “The indefiniteness of [the] term at the
 20 time [the parties] signed the [] agreement is the relevant time to consider when determining
 21 whether the [] agreement is an enforceable contract, not some undefined time
 22 thereafter.” *Richter v. Port of Seattle*, 173 Wash. App. 1014 at *4 (2013). Accordingly, whether
 23 the parties *could* eventually reach a specific amount based on discernible factors is “analytically
 24 irrelevant” otherwise. *See, e.g., Id.* (Plaintiff argued that square footage could have been
 25 determined by a surveyor, and the exact boundaries were the sole determination of the defendant,
 26 but whether the defendant or a surveyor could later determine the square footage does not change
 27 the fact that this term was not defined in the letter agreement). As applied to dollar amounts left

1 to be determined at a future date, Washington courts look for “a specific number determined by a
 2 specific mathematical formula.” *P.E. Systems, LLC v. CPI Corp.*, 176 Wash.2d 198, 209 (2012)
 3 (holding that a contract in which a blank addendum was an open term that could be easily
 4 calculated because the addendum expressly stated the amount would be calculated by dividing
 5 total costs by total revenue).

6 Here, although some parameters were set for the “reasonable estimation” of the amount
 7 of financial assurances, *i.e.*, estimated costs of remediation, etc., what is lacking is the
 8 “reasonable certainty” allowing the court to “fix *exactly* the legal liability of the
 9 parties.” *Sandeman*, 50 Wash.2d at 541, 543 (emphasis added). Nor is there any “specific
 10 number determined by a specific mathematical formula.” *P.E. Systems, LLC v. CPI Corp.*, 176
 11 Wash.2d 198, 209 (2012). Instead, there are a number of factors the parties contemplated would
 12 be involved in the estimation of the final amount of financial assurance, but that amount is to be
 13 set at a future time, which requires a further meeting of the minds.

14 BioMed has already conceded that Section 8.1(q) is too indefinite to be enforced. For
 15 example, Mr. Simonsen agreed at his deposition that Section 8.1(q) provided no formula for
 16 discerning what amount would be sufficient to satisfy BioMed with regard to the Washington
 17 Builders’ claim. Quiat Decl., Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at 83:22-84:15, 85:8-13. Further, in its
 18 May 1, 2014 letter, BioMed’s counsel expressed concern that “it may be difficult for the parties
 19 to agree on the amount necessary to cover remediation and/or third party claims from Hazardous
 20 Materials on the Land or from Off-Property contamination,” making note of “the unknowns
 21 inherent in the migration of contaminants,” and ultimately asserting that Section 8.1(q) “is an
 22 ‘agreement to agree,’” which “[u]nder Washington law” is “not enforceable.” *Id.*, Ex. M at
 23 BR1161.

24 Moreover, “[w]hen parties seek specific performance of a contract [as BioMed does here]
 25 a higher standard of proof must be met: clear and unequivocal evidence that leaves no doubt as
 26 to the terms, character, and existence of the contract.” 16th *Street Investors, LLC v. Morrison*,
 27 153 Wash. App. 44, 55-56 (2009). Specific performance is not appropriate where “the parties

1 had agreed that they needed to reach a further agreement on the terms of the option.” *Id.*
 2 Washington courts require buyers seeking specific performance to “convince us that the contract
 3 and its terms are so definite that we can determine exactly what it means or fix the parties’ exact
 4 legal liability.” *Id.* at 56.

5 Thus, Section 8.1(q) is unenforceable as a matter of law and unavailable to BioMed as an
 6 alternative to waiving the condition precedent of Section 9.4.

7 **4. Specific Performance Is Not Available to BioMed Under the PSA.**

8 BioMed’s claims fail for yet another, independent reason. As a matter of law, the PSA
 9 by its terms does not entitle BioMed to specific performance when a condition precedent is
 10 unfulfilled under circumstances like those presented here.

11 Section 9.15 specifically states that “if any of said representations and warranties are not
 12 correct in all material respects at the time the same is made or as of Closing, and Seller had no
 13 knowledge of such inaccuracy when the representation or warranty was made (or when deemed
 14 remade at Closing), or if such warranty or representation becomes inaccurate on or prior to
 15 closing other than by reason of Seller’s default hereunder, Buyer may, upon being notified in
 16 writing by Seller of such occurrence on or prior to Closing, either: (a) terminate this Agreement
 17 and Escrow pursuant to the provisions of Section 8.5(a) hereof; or (b) waive such matter and
 18 proceed to closing.” Quia Decl., Ex. C at BR11072-11073; *id.*, Ex. A (Simonsen Depo.) at
 19 48:6-10, 48:13-23, 71:10-13. BioMed plainly agreed that if Section 9.4 were rendered inaccurate
 20 after the execution of the PSA, it could do only one of two things: waive Section 9.4 or terminate
 21 the PSA.

22 Under these circumstances, with no default by Dexter, specific performance is not an
 23 option available to BioMed. Although Section 8.5(a) generally provides for remedies to the
 24 Buyer in the case of default by the seller, including the remedy of specific performance (Quia
 25 Decl., Ex. C at BR11068), it does not apply to these circumstances for at least two reasons. First,
 26 as already described, Dexter is not in default. Second, the general canon of contract
 27 interpretation that “specific provisions control over the general provisions” applies under

Washington law. *Footte v. Viking Ins. Co. of Wisconsin*, 57 Wash. App. 831, 834-35 (1990); *see also McGary v. Westlake Investors*, 99 Wash. 2d 280, 286 (1983). “Because the parties likely paid closer attention to specific or exact terms than general language, [courts] assume that the specific language better expresses the parties’ intent.” *Parker v. Tumwater Family Practice Clinic*, 118 Wash. App. 425, 434 (2003) (*citing Footte*, 57 Wash. App. at 834–35). Section 9.15 specifically denotes the remedies available to BioMed should the requirements of Section 9.4 not be met. Moreover, as Washington courts have consistently held, “[a]n interpretation of a writing which gives effect to all of its provisions is favored over one which renders some of the language meaningless or ineffective.” *GMAC v. Everett Chevrolet, Inc.*, 179 Wash. App. 126, 140 (2014). To allow for specific performance under Section 8.5(a) would be to render Section 9.15 meaningless. In *Empire Realty Invests., Inc. v. U.S. Affordable Housing, LLC*, No. 1:14-cv-380, 2015 WL 2404375, at *7 (N.D. Ind. May 19, 2015), the Northern District of Indiana dealt with remarkably analogous facts as are present here, including a PSA very similar to the language of the PSA in this case, which contained a provision that made representations and warranties a condition precedent to the closing of the transaction. As is the case here, the remedy for failure to fulfill the condition precedent was either waiver of the particular representation and warranty or termination of the PSA. The court determined that “[t]o allow Empire to assert its specific performance claim would be to place Empire in a better position than it would have been at the time when USAH’s performance on the Agreement was due.” *Id.* Likewise, BioMed is limited to the terms upon which it agreed, and while “[BioMed] now finds its remedies under Section [9.15] to be insufficient, nothing in its pleadings indicates that the parties did not freely bargain for these terms when they entered the Agreement.” *Id.*

IV. CONCLUSION

As of May 20, 2015, the day that Dexter terminated the PSA, the undisputed material facts all point to the same conclusion: the condition precedent regarding threatened claims or litigation could not be satisfied, despite fifteen months of extraordinary effort by Dexter. For these reasons, Defendant 700 Dexter, LLC respectfully requests that the Court grant Dexter’s

1 Motion for Summary Judgment and dismiss both of Plaintiff BioMed Realty, L.P.'s causes of
2 action.

3 Dated: December 30, 2015

4 s/ Regina V. Culbert

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15 Attorneys for Defendant, 700 Dexter, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 30, 2015, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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